



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 1525 SD1 HD1
RELATING TO HOME CARE AGENCIES**

REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS LEE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: Monday, March 25, 2019

Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of this bill to
3 rescind the repeal of the Home Care Agency licensing requirement.

4 Home care agencies provide home care services to persons who wish to remain
5 independent and in their own homes rather than to live in residential care homes or institutional
6 facilities. Home care services are defined as personal care or homemaker services. These
7 include assisting the client with toileting, showering and grooming, meal preparation, routine
8 house cleaning, shopping for household supplies or for food, running errands, escorting clients to
9 medical care appointments, and assisting with simple health care routines such as reminders to
10 take oral medication, diet restrictions, or to perform recommended exercises.

11 State licensing provides regulatory oversight to ensure public and client safety. It
12 requires background checks on owners, management and staff, and requires the caregivers to
13 receive instructions and oversight from the home care agency supervisor.

14 The Department implemented the licensing program in October 2018 based on Section
15 321-14.8 Hawaii Revised Statute (HRS) and Chapter 11-700 Hawaii Administrative Rules

1 (HAR). Forty seven (47) applications were received and are being processed and one (1) license
2 has been issued to Ohana Care Maui LLC effective 2/13/2019 for two (2) years. Additional
3 licenses will be issued once final paperwork is completed by the applicants and licensing fees are
4 paid.

5 Home Care Agency licensing ensures client safety and, therefore, should be maintained.

6 It is also important to note that the effective date on this bill must be before the repeal date of
7 June 30, 2019. As a result, the Department SUPPORTS this bill and requests an effective date of
8 June 29, 2019, or earlier.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

10 **Offered Amendments:** None